



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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## HE WANTS MORE MONEY.

**Mayor Swift's Annual Message to the City Council Interesting Reading.**

**Not Money Enough in Sight to Run the Departments of the City Government.**

**He Also Has Something to Say About Special Assessments and Compensation for the Use of Streets.**

Mayor Swift's annual message, which was presented to the Council Monday night, deals at length with the condition of affairs in the various municipal departments and contains a few recommendations for improvements. The document is characterized by a self-laudatory tone, and wherever possible comparisons are made with expenditures of former years and a saving is claimed. However, the pay rolls in detail by months are given for but one department—that of public works—where there is said to be a decrease of \$675,000.

Finances and the city's insufficient revenues are the principal topics of the message. Some attention is devoted to the special assessment evil and to the subject of compensation for the use of the streets by corporations. On this latter point the Mayor deals entirely in generalities. The need of a new revenue law, involving a possible amendment of the State Constitution, is expressed.

The message is in substance as follows:

The past municipal year has been free from any extraordinary troubles or disturbances. Our main trouble has been of old trying to administer the government of a great city, with its ever expanding necessities, upon a narrow and inadequate income. Happily our citizens are showing an increasing interest in the financial management of the city, as well as in the other municipal problems which affect us, and it seems reasonable to expect that some measure of relief will soon come. But the past year shows substantial results and progress. A civil service law, believed to be the best in existence, has been put into thorough and complete operation. The long pending dispute with the Illinois Central Railroad Company over the lake front has been finally settled and in a form which promises to give to this city an early day an attractive park near the heart of its business center. Provision has been made for the removal of many miles of railways from the surface of the streets, and the railway companies are manifesting a growing disposition to co-operate with the city in future elevation work. These are some of the events of the past year to which we may look back with satisfaction both as citizens and as public officials.

That the city's revenues are insufficient for its needs is generally understood, but comparatively few people realize the extent of this deplorable insufficiency. At the present time our citizens are finding their taxes considerably increased and a large proportion of them do not understand that no part of this increase goes to the benefit of the municipal government proper. For the last five years, under the operation of the law limiting the amount of the tax levy, there has been no substantial change in the amount of the taxes levied by the city. On the other hand, there has been a distinct increase in the taxes levied for the drainage canal, for the support of schools and the maintenance of the park systems. In the meantime the necessities of the city have been increasing in every direction, thus making the disproportion between its revenues and its requirements gradually greater. It has been my determination that the floating indebtedness of the city should not be increased during my administration, and I mean to adhere to that determination if possible. In the present condition of things, without unlawfully running into debt, streets cannot be properly cleaned, pavements, bridges and viaducts and other public works cannot be properly maintained and the police force must continue inadequate.

Tables showing receipts, expenditures, liabilities and assets are given in connection with the general subject of finance. The total cash shortage on Jan. 1, 1895, was \$5,148,492.08. The report then continues: It has been claimed that this cash shortage was offset by the general

fund amounting to \$2,464,730.10. As a matter of fact, the amount to the credit of the general fund was not available, the entire sum having been loaned to the various city departments and used to pay their bills in anticipation of the collection of taxes of 1894 levied for their payment. The actual cash represented by this credit of \$2,464,730.10 was not and could not be available until the taxes of 1894 collected in full a year later should come to hand. The amount to the credit of the general fund on Jan. 1, 1895, was a paper credit and not a cash one, being made up of debts due it from departments, the payment of which would have to await the collection of their taxes.

Jan. 1, 1895, the accounts of the city were \$6,156,290.28 short, not deducting cash in the treasury. On the same date \$1,074,807.20 comprised the entire cash in the treasury. It follows, therefore, that on said date there was an actual net cash shortage of \$4,481,483.08. To this add \$607,000 for water certificates and it is evident that the city at that time was short \$5,148,492.08 to meet liabilities past due.

It is sometimes said that the city of Chicago has a sufficient income to meet all necessary expenditures if economy is practiced. The statement is not true. Your honorable body reduced the estimates of the departments for 1895 over \$2,000,000 and appropriated manifestly inadequate sums for absolutely necessary expenses. For example, the sum of \$565,000 was appropriated for gas, oil and electric lighting, when it was apparent that the actual cost of such lighting would amount to more than \$600,000. If we had limited the street lighting according to the appropriation our citizens would have been for months past absolutely without light.

The small appropriation was made because of the belief that the gas companies could be put off and made to accept judgments in lieu of cash. We had in 1895 1,100 miles of improved streets and alleys. There was appropriated the sum of \$225,000 for keeping them clean, obviously an insufficient amount. If the appropriation was divided equally among the several months, and each and every street received equal attention, it would result in the expenditure of 63 cents per yard for each mile of streets. At the beginning of the present administration there had been expended for street cleaning from January to April 1, the sum of \$140,204.55, leaving an unexpended balance for the remaining nine months of \$109,795.45. This, if equally distributed, would make a daily expenditure of not quite 37 cents per mile. The total appropriation made to clean 1,100 miles of improved streets and alleys and to remove garbage, ashes, etc., including the cost of supervision, was \$605,000 (in 1893 the appropriation was \$1,000,000). New York, with less than 400 miles of streets and alleys, had \$3,070,000 for street cleaning, removal of garbage, ashes, etc., for the present fiscal year.

For the repair of 1,100 miles of improved streets there was appropriated for the present fiscal year the sum of \$200,000 or \$15 per mile per year. For the care and cleaning of 1,403 miles of unimproved streets the sum of \$150,000 was appropriated, or \$10.60 per mile per year. We have reduced the bonded debt during the year 1895, \$534,000. The expenses estimated as necessary by the heads of departments for the year 1896 for corporate purposes amounted to \$11,171,998.04; the income for corporate purposes, based on income of 1895, is estimated at \$8,525,365.06; showing a deficiency in income to meet estimated expenses amounting to \$2,646,632.98.

Owing to the above deficiency, there could be appropriated but \$8,500,000 for corporate expenses of 1896, thereby crippling all the departments and rendering it impossible to give satisfactory metropolitan service to the community.

The volume of business has largely increased over that of the previous year, as there were 1,010 assessments made in 1894, amounting to \$2,904,721.11, while in 1895 there were 1,402, amounting to \$4,013,787.11. The expenses of the bureau were \$84,053.10 less than for 1894.

The subject of compensation for the use of streets is somewhat hackneyed, but it is too much alive to be passed over without notice here. Licenses for the use of streets—which we commonly, but erroneously, call "franchises"—are constantly being granted and must in the nature of things continue to be granted in some degree to corporations of all kinds and to individuals for varied purposes. The justification for such grants is the public benefit expected to be derived therefrom, directly or indirectly. Conditions are changing all the time, bringing new demands which must be met. A license to a street railway company to use a certain street at one time might well be something for which the community could afford to pay, where at a later period it would be enormously valuable and capable of being sold at a high price if the street were unoccupied. The same thing applies to licenses in different localities of the city and it applies equally to the use of a street by a fruit stand, by a gas

main, or by a railway track. The present sentiment of the community is clearly in favor of exacting a monetary compensation to the city for street privileges in all cases where it is reasonable or practicable, and this sentiment seems to be just. I am heartily in accord with it. It is plain that the compensation should bear some relation to the value of the privileges granted and to the profits likely to be realized therefrom. During the past year I have made every reasonable effort consistent with what seemed to be a due regard for the public interest to obtain adequate compensation for the privilege of using the streets and in most instances with a fair degree of success. In some instances where I have felt constrained to yield my personal judgment I have done so with great reluctance.

Mayor Swift then told the Council that he had made gratifying progress in the matter of track elevation. After felicitating himself on the manner in which he has arranged matters with the Illinois Central Railway on the lake front, he discusses the civil service law, and avers that it has taken the police out of politics.

Regarding the non-publication of pay rolls he says: One effect of the operation of the civil service law caused me to discontinue the publication of the city pay rolls in the Council proceedings. All pay rolls go to the civil service commission for certification before the Comptroller will approve them. As new men cannot be placed in the service or upon the pay rolls, nor old men promoted, nor salaries or wages raised except upon the recommendation of the commission and after examination, it is plain that the verification of the rolls by the commission is an absolute check upon anything like pay roll stuffing. The existence of this check seemed to me to render the further publication of the pay rolls, with its attendant expense, unnecessary.

On the question of taxation the Mayor reviews the work of the commission recently appointed by him to inquire into the alleged inequalities of valuation in the business center of the city. He declares that the report of the committee shows there are glaring inequalities in assessments and that much property is escaping its fair share of taxation. The Mayor then continues:

The suggestion has already been made to me to appoint a similar commission to investigate personal property assessments, and it is not unlikely that I shall appoint such a commission at an early date. Efforts must necessarily be made at the next session of the General Assembly to secure amendments of the revenue law. The expense of the work to date has been approximately \$10,000 and under the circumstances I think this expense should be borne by the city and that prompt provision should be made for its payment.

In conclusion the Mayor announces that the city government cannot be conducted cheaply, and urges that existing laws be changed to admit of an increase of revenue.

Complaints regarding the inefficiency of the water system have been

filling up so rapidly during the last few days that the Department of Public Works has had prepared a statement showing the amount in gallons of water pumped at each station during July and August of last year and also the totals and comparisons for the first eleven days of the current month. It is as follows:

Total.  
Total pumped July, 1895, 7,876,000.382  
Average pumped July, 1895, 257,290.463  
Total pumped Aug., 1895, 8,081,725.346  
Av. pumped Aug., 1895, 260,705.334  
Total May 1 to 11, 1896, 2,843,775  
Average May 1 to 11, 1896, 258,530.017

"Every station in the city is working to its full capacity," said a department official, "and the only solution of the problem is more tunnels and more pumping stations. The police have been ordered to enforce the law against allowing water to run all day or sprinkling lawns during the daytime, and we are doing all we can to give good service with the present system."

Opening the bids for the construction of the plant, conduits, lamps and the wiring for the electric light system of the west parks occupied most of the meeting of the Commissioners Tuesday afternoon. In all about seventy-five bids were opened. No announcement of awards has been made. The bids are for various portions of the work and bear on such different propositions that time will be consumed in figuring them out.

The proposed trolley line crossing Central Park boulevard at Chicago avenue was the subject of a report from the improvement committee. The report recommended that the board construct a subway on Chicago avenue, the probable cost of which will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000, the expense to be shared with the West Chicago Street Railway Company, as may be agreed upon.

Chief of Police Badenoch is after the County Board for the manner in which it restricts the admission of patients into the detention hospital. He says his department is handicapped by the conduct of the County Board and that the persons who are refused admittance to the detention hospital are injured by the lack of proper care. The subject has often come up for solution by the Chief, and he has attempted to correct the evil through the County Board, but has failed. Tuesday morning the abuse was again called to his attention by City Prosecutor Tatge. Mr. Tatge was at the Desplines street station and found there a man who, to his mind, is clearly a candidate for the detention hospital, and there the County Physician refused to admit him on the ground that the man was not properly committed, although the City Physician pronounced him insane.

Waukegan will have an electric railway in operation by the end of the month. The work being done gives color to the report that the line, which runs from Waukegan to North Chicago, is to be part of the through line from Chicago to Milwaukee.



PROF. JOHN P. BARRETT,  
City Electrician.

## ALTGELD AND FREE SILVER.

**Conventions Throughout the State Instructing Delegates to That Effect.**

**The South Town Board Nearly Out of Money, and Will Close Up If Not Enriched.**

**Chicago School Census Will Show a Population of Over a Million and a Half.**

Cass County Democrats held their county convention at Virginia Monday, and a full representation was present. A resolution declaring for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 was adopted by a vote of 58 to 38. Resolutions endorsing Governor Altgeld for re-nomination were also enthusiastically adopted. The State delegates, J. F. Robinson, A. M. Pendleton, W. W. Mathew, Dough Hager, Frank Cosner and Theodore Schaar, are instructed to vote for John P. Altgeld and free silver.

There was a mass convention held by the Democrats of Alexander County at Cairo to select delegates to the Congressional, State, Senatorial and Judicial conventions. A resolution in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver in the ratio of 16 to 1 was carried. The State delegates are instructed for John P. Altgeld for Governor and William Q. McCreary for the Legislature.

Members of the South Town Board have made a statement in explanation of the Auditor's action in passing an ordinance for a tax levy of \$50,000 on property owners. In April, 1895, the board received from Supervisor Leiden-decker \$24,446.70, and the total sum received during the year was \$71,628.45. From the amount the following balances on salaries were paid:

Henry Best, assessor, \$6,500  
Marion W. Homan, collector, 4,200  
Abe Jacobs, clerk, 2,370  
Total, \$13,070

The statement made by members of the board continues as follows:

This year the board received from ex-Supervisor Sherlock the sum of \$7,900.02. This amount of money is all that the town has with which to pay expenses until the time of collections December, 1896. The present board asks for a tax levy of \$50,000, which, in addition to \$7,900.02 received from ex-Supervisor Sherlock, will give the town an available fund of \$57,900.02, which is \$8,500.07 less than the expenses of the town for last year up until Dec. 7, 1895, when the Collector made his first payment to the Supervisor of the 2 per cent. allowed on collections.

The action of the board was not unprecedented. In 1891 the available funds were not sufficient to pay the expenses of the town and a tax levy of \$40,000 was ordered by the town board and the Board of County Commissioners had the same extended on the books of the County Clerk. What was done, according to the Town Attorney and Supervisor, was done legally and in strict conformity with the statute in such case made and provided. The town has not the money necessary for town expenses. Assessor Heplburn has a right to act as a member of the board in the absence of any member. In article 13, section 2, on township organization, the statute gives the Assessor and Collector this right.

The school census of this year, it is estimated by clerks in the office, will probably show a population of over 1,500,000. This is about the population figured two years ago before a percentage was added. The final figures at that time were 1,507,750. There are still two or three books out in territory undergoing recensus, but it is hoped by Supt. Stanford that these will be returned at once, so that the figures may be submitted to the school census committee of the Board of Education the last of the week.

Supt. Stanford does not know whether the committee will be willing to announce the grand total until the figures can be better tabulated.

South Town Assessor Heplburn says he will be compelled to close his office if money is not forthcoming within a few days. "This office will be closed within a week unless money to pay salaries is forthcoming," said Assessor Heplburn Tuesday. "This is a grave

matter, in which the people of Chicago are far more interested than I am. Personally I am ready to complete the work of making the assessment which I was elected to perform. But to do so I must have financial help from somewhere, and as taxpayers at the town meeting saw fit to refuse to vote a tax levy for town purposes it rests with them or with the county board to see to the providing of funds for the assessment, unless they want to see the city lose a large portion of the revenue of the year.

An opinion on redistricting the city has been rendered by Corporation Counsel Beale to the committee on elections of the Council. He says the Council has authority to change ward boundaries, but may not increase or decrease the number of wards.

Alderman Foster of the Twenty-seventh Ward has prepared a "rider" for the Union loop ordinance, providing for a trolley line in Armitage avenue from West 44th street to Central avenue. This line, if constructed, will benefit residents of the northwest side by forming a connecting link in present transportation facilities.

Comptroller Wetherell may gain a victory over City Treasurer Wolf in an opinion to be rendered by the city law department on a controversy between the officials. The decision may be that the City Treasurer must accept taxes collected by the County Treasurer as deposited by the latter official. Comptroller Wetherell will then decide to what funds the money will be directed.

Thomas J. McNichols, Commissioner of Cook County, has been acquitted of the charge of bribery made against him in connection with the Michael J. O'Brien indictment.

The case was summarily disposed of Tuesday. It began in the morning and at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon it was over. Judge Payne and Robert E. Cantwell were the principal witnesses.

A jury of twelve men heard the evidence, but the members were as lay figures as far as any opinion of their own in the premises was concerned. Assistant State's Attorney McElhorne said he did not think he had adduced sufficient proof to warrant a conviction, and Judge Freeman instructed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

At the meeting of the Drainage Board the monthly reports were received and approved, as were the vouchers for \$140,075.57. The reports showed the total number of employees to be 205, of which 152 are in the engineering department. Weir, McKeechey & Co. were refused extra compensation for work on their section. A resolution was passed directing the attorney to pay \$30,337 to the Treasurer of Will County, to be awarded by him to the owners of property recently condemned. Campbell & Dennis, of Joliet, were the successful bidders for the construction of retaining walls in section 14. Of sixteen bidders, their bid of \$80,882 was the lowest, the highest being \$130,000.

Five damage suits were begun against Mayor Swift and members of the Civic Federation by William Skakel and R. E. Schuman, Skakel's partner, who sued the Mayor in the Superior Court for \$50,000, and in the same court Pierce Guan began an action against Lyman J. Gage for the same amount. In the Circuit Court Skakel sued Franklin MacVough for \$50,000, and suits for the same amount were begun by W. H. Rowan against E. S. Dreyer and by Harry Kohn against W. T. Baker, the President of the Civic Federation.

Rather than try the issue as to whether the instruments seized in the raids on William Skakel's alleged bucket shops were gambling implements before a jury the attorneys for the Civic Federation withdrew the case.